

THE CENTRAL MILLS SYSTEM.

Particulars of its Working at
Papaikou—Declared to be
a Success.

EDITOR GAZETTE: The centralization system adopted at Papaikou is apparently working without a hitch of any kind, and to the satisfaction of all parties. This scheme is undoubtedly a good one both for the planter and the manufacturer; it is certainly the best contract for planters ever made on these islands. By this arrangement they not only get two-thirds of the sugar (instead of one-half, as was formerly the custom), but get from 15 to 20 per cent. more sugar from the cane than it was possible to get with their old mills and methods, besides getting higher polarization.

The distribution of the time also has some advantages. Each planter grinds two weeks, and they usually make from 250 to 300 tons of sugar in this length of time. They also usually save enough seed from this grind to carry them over to the next. It also leaves their men free, so that they can do the planting and hoeing in the proper season. This method has worked so satisfactorily that we find the planter will be through grinding in a few days, having taken off his crop of about 1,000 tons. The others are well along with their work and will be through in good season.

FLUMING THE CANE.

It has been clearly demonstrated here that, where fluming the cane is practicable, distance does not materially increase the cost of transportation. The longest distance, so far, is from Onomea (about five miles), and the cane was flumed from this place for 30 cents per clarifier. It would be difficult to reduce this amount, no matter how near the cane might be.

The arrangement made here is very simple. The planter cuts the cane and lays it near the flume, and the mill company flumes it for 50 cents per ton of sugar. Now it usually takes about seven tons of cane to make a ton of sugar, so that it would cost the planter but 7 cents a ton to have his cane transported to the mill. The cost for putting up the flume was \$10,000, and it is one of the best in the district.

THE MILL.

This mill was remodeled about three years ago at a cost of about \$40,000, and put in what was considered first-class order. The three-roller mill at this place is especially adapted for doing good work; the engine is of the best design and is geared up very high, about forty revolutions of engine to one of mill; the engine runs at a very high speed, and develops an immense power. The train of gears is double or compound. The rollers are 30x60, geared with steel pinions. The returning bar is six inches in diameter and possesses great strength and rigidity.

The two-roll mill is the usual size found here, 30x60, and is driven by a Corliss engine, geared forty-five revolutions to one of mill. The gearing is single with large spur wheel built or made in segments. This is considered the best wheel for this purpose. Both of these mills are especially made for doing the best possible grinding, and the work done by them cannot be surpassed.

The boiling house has been entirely rebuilt and is now considered to be one of the best on the island. It contains all of the latest improvements except the vacuum cleaner. There are two vacuum pans—one five tons, the other four tons. There are four clarifiers, four cleaning pans and four centrifugal machines; one double effect of the usual size (one seven, and one six foot pan), and it works to perfection, evaporating sixty-four clarifiers from 16 deg. Brix to 30 deg. Brix in thirteen and a half hours. There are two pairs of compound boilers for making steam for the plant, but their capacity is not quite equal to that of the mill—they, however, do splendid work for their size.

The main object in view when the alterations were made, was to so arrange everything about the mill, as to do the best possible work with the least expense as well as to increase the capacity. In this they have been successful in every particular, as the last month's work will fully demonstrate.

A GOOD MONTH'S WORK.

The number of clarifiers ground in the month of April was 1,550, and made 355 tons of sugar. Half the time it was dry grinding the other half with maceration. The average number of clarifiers per week for dry grinding was 320. The average number for maceration was 333 per week. The greatest number of clarifiers made in one day was 64, and the least number 41; the average was 54 clarifiers for every working day in the month. The largest amount of sugar made in one day was 30 tons; the largest amount for one week, 158 tons. The amount of sugar per clarifier cannot be ascertained, as the low grades are not all dry yet, but in some of the previous months 945 lbs. per clarifier was got with dry grinding. To do this amount of work it was necessary to start the mill at 5 o'clock a. m., and run to 6 p. m.; and the boiling house to start at 4 a. m., and work to 8:30 p. m. This may be considered, under present circumstances, as working the mill up to its fullest capacity, but by making a few alterations it is considered possible to exceed this amount of work.

The work is not only done with dispatch, but according to the most approved and best practice. The number of men employed is also reduced to the lowest limit, there being but two men for keeping up steam, two men for drying the sugar, and one for clarifying the juice. The wages for the men are also reduced to the lowest possible amount, or consistent with amount of work done. For overtime they receive but \$2.50 per month; for special work they receive a little more. The large amount of work done here has been the means of greatly reducing expenses, and I understand the total cost for manufacture, including labor, bags, lime, stores, repairs, etc., does not exceed \$3.75 per ton of sugar. At the commencement of the crop there were 1,100 acres of ratoon and plant cane to take off, and the estimated yield was 3,500 tons of sugar. Rather more than two-thirds of the crop is already taken off, which has yielded about 2,500 tons of sugar.

HAWAII.

LAUPAHOEHOE JOURNALISM.

Extracts From the Laupahoehoe
Manuscript Gazette.
Hawaii.

Laupahoehoe wants a hotel more than railroad, or a music hall, or newspaper correspondent, or a Government doctor. Her citizens are glad to entertain their friends, whom they welcome with unaffected pleasure, or even their acquaintances, whom they treat with due consideration, or even the people they have heard of and whom they are glad to know. But when it comes to being roused up at 2 o'clock in the morning to furnish entertainment, supper and lodging to some unknown and unheard of stranger from Australia or Hindustan, whom you not only never saw before, but never want to see again—we think unworlily well, it is not pleasant. Every house here has not been constructed on the plan of a public hotel, expandable at a moment's notice to meet the demands of the traveling public, even though the heart and welcome of the owner have.

As a rule such free hospitality is duly appreciated, but sometimes we are sorry to say these impromptu guests seem to forget that they are not paying for their entertainment, and are not entitled to that alacrity of service which they might properly demand at an ordinary hotel. Sometimes, too, those whom we have entertained as we best knew how have quite failed to recognize us when we happened to meet them on their own ground afterwards. Of course we have survived this neglect, but it suggests an unpleasant train of thought. But not alone for our own comfort and convenience would we be glad to see a hotel established, but quite as much for that of the traveling public. We believe there are people of so refined a nature that they accept with hesitation this gratuitous hospitality, and find themselves deficient in the "cheek" necessary to secure the greatest degree of comfort and attention. That frame of mind should be encouraged, by all means; it is rare enough.

Again, we have a deep and intelligent sympathy for the weary and debilitated traveler landing from the steamer at midnight, in the rain, amongst a crowd of chattering Chinese and natives, who soon disappear with their smoky lanterns, leaving him in the darkness to wander off among the rocks, ponds and pitfalls of an unknown region in the vain search for some dry spot in which to spend the balance of the night. We are afraid he sometimes grows profane before morning.

For these reasons we need a hotel. Laupahoehoe village is reported to be suffering from a severe drought, and the burden of a suppressed complaint is "nothing to drink!" These numerous oases in the desert when a refreshing draught could always be drawn from some dark corner under the counter have all suddenly dried up. Even the perpetual fountain at the Vienna billiard saloon, euphonicly termed "the swipe shop" has failed since the sheriff has adopted the premises as a private residence; at least we naturally suppose it has.

The cause of this unprecedented drought is said to be the new Government with all their paraphernalia of a new sheriff, new judge and new instructions to the police force. We were always afraid the new Government would affect the morals and finances and trade of the country, but we supposed they would leave the weather alone. The proposal to relieve the village by the construction of water works and an abundant supply of pure water does not meet the case at all; people want something to drink not wash in.

We have recently been favored with a brief unofficial call from a young man of prepossessing appearance, who is taking orders for a foreign portrait firm and home-made beer. This latter fact, however, he did not disclose to us, probably from a courteous regard for the well-known blue ribbon principles of this journal. It is said, by those who have tried it, that his beer is worse than his pictures. We do not see how this can well be, but, if so, his traveling expenses should be paid by the Blue Ribbon society, for he must be a powerful factor for reform. We commend the versatility which turns in a breath from art to beer, but would suggest that he should extend his range by adding, say, Bibles and baby rattles. He would then be in a position to say to his customers:

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